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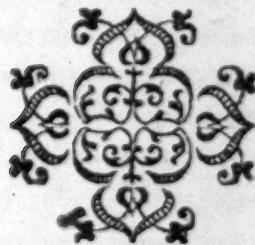
THE TURKES SECRETORIE, Conteining

HIS SVNDRIE LETTERS

*Sent to diuers Emperours, Kings, Princes
and States, full of proud bragges,
and bloody threatnings:*

With feuerall Answers to the same, both
pithie and peremptorie.

Translated truly out of the Latine Copie.



L O N D O N

Printed by M. B. and are to be folde at the
Swan in Pauls Church-yard.

1607.

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addressed to me by Dr. M. V. B. M.
and Dr. J. D. B. M.

TO THE MOST
Woorthie, *Liborius*, *Theodore*,
Adolph, *Lodowick*, and *George*, sonnes to
the most noble *Nicolas of M V N I*.
CHAVSEN, fauourers of all
good learning, health.



OST noble and woorthie Gentlemen, the birth and growth of Mahomets tyranny, which, like the inundation of some great and mightie riuier, hath overflowen the greatest part of the world, is very memorabile. For that Arabian impostor and false Prophet, being descended of meane parentage, under colour of a certaine new and plausible Religion, made his way to the Empire; and having therewith good successe and fortune of warre, was the first that gaue name to that superstitions sect, and most prodigious kingdome. And indeed this enterprise was more easily achiued, because, in all counsels and contractations he had an excellent apprehension, and affected alwayes in his deaignments and resolutions to be popular. For being by nature composed all of Subtiltie and Flatterie, he became by meanes thereof so powerfull and mightie in his persuasions, that in short time he drew all the people to his partie, and purchaste himselfe a great name and reputation amongst them.

The lawes and institutions which he published, were imbraced of his countrey-men with woonderfull applause and liking, partly, for that he pretended to haue received them by Divine inspiration, and partly, because they held good correspondence and proportion with their owne wicked inclination, and dissolute course of

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life. And this course seemed unto him to be the shortest and most compendious way to attaine and establish his greatnessse, being perswaded that where he could not obtaine in a Lions skin, there doubtlesse he should preuaile in a Foxes case. For he called to minde, how Lysander had once aduised to that purpose, deriding the follie of those men, who (as if they were borne of Hercules) seeke to accomplish their dsignments rather with force than with policie.

But of the maner of gouernment among the Lacedemonians, being very like to this, and of that wicked Alcoran which was patched together by the labour and travell of those leud confederates, Iohn of Antioch, Sergius the Arrian, and a certaine Jew that was an Astronomer, in the yeere of our Sauour Christ, 624. and in the time of Heraclius the Emperour, and of Pope Honorius the first; though a great field is heere opened unto me to discourse, yet at this time, and at this place I hold it needless and impertinent. To returne therefore to our former matter.

When he had ordered his affaires after this maner, he perswaded the people, that were madde with desire of libertie, to take armes; wherewith he enlarged the narrow confines of his new Monarchie, and in short time brought great and mightie Provinces to be subiect to his tyrannie. The people were encouraged heerein the rather, through a vaine hope, wherewith this false Arabian prophet did abuse them, making them beleue, that they should be Maisters of the whole world: which (as he saide) both by Diuine Prouidence, and right of inheritance did apperteine unto Abrahams posteritie, and consequently unto them, who derived their pedigree lineally from Sara their mother. This vaine conceit was a strong goade to pricke them forwards to make sharpe and cruell warres against all nations. And to this day, the Turkes made proud with this fancie onely, haue with their armes inuaded diuers Kingdomes and States, and like an heard of hungrie wolues, lying in wait for a flocke of sheepe, they lie in ambush to destroie all Christendome.

Neither was Mahomet the second lesse agreeable in condicions than in Name, so that Enthusiasticall seducer, exercising
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more tyrannie and crueltie, than all the Ottamaries besides, as if the same bad beeene bequeathed vnto him by the last Will and Testament of his predecessor. For his father Amurathes being himselfe of all that euer lived, the most barbarous and cruell, declared him to be the heire apparant of all his kingdomes and seignories, vpon condition, that he would be an euerlasting enemy of the name of Christ, and would bend all his studies, and thoughts, to be tyrannous, cruell, and unmercifull. But so straight a band and caution needed not, seeing the exceeding palenesse of his countenance, hauing swolne cheeke, and a crooked nose which touched almost his lippes, together with manie other signes and tokens of a monstrous nature, shewed evidently in his childhood, what kinde of man he was like to prooue in his riper yeres. For he that readeth the Histories of former times, shall finde many examples of such mis-shapen and deformed Thersites, the monsters and wonders of Man-kind, which haue beeene in their time, the ruine and confusion of Kingdomes and Common-weales.

His Mother, being the daughter of the Despote of Seruia, and Duke of Mysia, was carefull to instruct him in the rules of Pietie and Christian Religion. For holding in deepe detestation the wicked heresies of the Saracens, and the sauge crueltie of the Barbarous Turkes, she desired earnestly to haue him consecrated to the obedience of Christ, and service of the Commonwealth: which, being herselfe a wise and religious woman, she preferred as a heavenly treasure before all the wealth and kingdomes of the world. But,

Naturam expellas furca, &c.

Nature will not be bridled, and what is bred in the bone will never out of the flesh. For Mahomet no sooner came to mans estate, but he cast all into the winde, and tooke no care of any religion. In private he was an absolute Atheist, reposing all his hopes in a good Fortune, making no account of the Divine prouidence, and with many scoffes and scornes jesting at those which affirmed that humane affaires are disposed and gouerned by God.

Wherefore following the example and direction of his predecessor

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cessour and father, his chiefeſt care and ſtudie was to enlarge his dominions, and with the yoke of Mahometane flauerie to opprefſe thofe kings and people whom he subdued. So that in the ſpace of 32. yeeres, that he raigneſt, many Kingdomes, Dukedomes, and Cities were conqueſted, and became ſubiect to his tyraſne. For which cauſe he was compared to Alexander the Great, and for his noble and great exploits, furnamed the Great amonſt his people.

The firſt and fearefulleſt feate of warre which he did, was the winning of Bizantium the moſt renorneſt and Famous Ciuie of Conſtantine the Great, which is acknowledg'd of all, to haue beene the glory and beautey of all Christendome. There is no man living (as I thinke) that is able with fit words, and due compaſſion to expreſſe ſo greenouſe and ſo great calamities. For then the great and mighty Empire of Greece that was wont to be the wall and bulwark of the Romane Empire, in leſſe than two moneths ſiege was diſſolved, and vterly ſubuerted. The Emperour Conſtantinus Paleologus, a Prince endued with all commen- dable parts of piety, and vertue, ſeeing his eſtate was deſperat, and thinking to eſcape with his people at a backe gate, was miſerably ſmothed and killed in the throng. at what time, the bloo- dy and cruell tyraſt cauſed Proclamation to be made, that no per- ſon of what age, ſex, or condition ſoever ſhould be ſaued or pitied in that common maſſacre. This lamentable tragedie was acted in the 1453. yeere after the recoverie of our ſaluaſion by the Sonne of God, when Fredericke the thirde ſwaied the Empire of Rome, and Sixtus the fourth gouerned the Papacy.

Now God of his infinite goodneſſe and mercy breake the rod and power of the Turkes, and ſtop their rage and fury, that in theſe latter daies which are yet remaining unto the day of iudgement, the Churche may enioy peace and ſafety. For we are come now vnto that time, wherein many graue, wiſe, and learned perſons, among whom Luther was not the meaneſt, foretold that the Turke ſhould raigne in Germany. And truely ſo it appeareth. For all their ſtudies and forces are bent only, that by a ſhort cut they may innade our borders. And if we marke with what

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what ciuill dissentions, and intestine broiles the whole country of Germany is set on fire, we cannot but confess that it will be an easie enterprise for them to subdue it; except our most gratioues and mercifull God being pacified with our humble deuotions, will with his invincible arme defend vs and avert these dangers.

The Turkes (we see) with all diligence and watchfullnesse, doe obserue such aduantages, and seldome or never doe they slip these occasions, but with great ioy embrace them, as the only signes and abodelements of their good fortune: whereas we are possessed with such dulnesse and stupidiety, (what shall I call it else? more properly I can call it nothing) that, besides it deprineth vs of all sense of our owne miseries, it canseth also in our enemies themselves so great an admiration and wonderment, that they iest at vs for it with extreame laughter and derision.

How happy were it for vs, if the great wealth whereof the Exchequer, and common Treasury is daily emptied, were imployed on this seruice, and the subiects were not suffered to be so much impoverished as they are? For so long as they are rich, and able to contribute to their Soneraignes wants, it will be an easie matter to raise an Army and to make warre upon any occasion: But if once they be exhausted and drawne drie with unnescessary exactions and impositions, our armes will soone be dissolued, and our warres will proone ridiculous and infortunate, for want of meanes to prosecute and maintaine them. And if then necessity compell vs to seeke for peace, and Christian amity with our foes, is it not strange that in time of prosperity the very name of peace is so odious and hatefull? especially considering it happeneth many times, that whilste two are striuing and contending together, they are made (like the frog and the mouse in the fable) a pray and booty to a thirde enemy, whose malice never ceaseth till he hath destroied them both, and sent their soules (that I may use the Poets words) to fery ouer the Stygian lake, which is the blacke pit of hell.

Why then are we afraid of any forraign Turks? Seeing we, enen we, are Turkes unto our selues: yea farre more cruell and iniurious than any Turke, or (as the name importeth) any destroier

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in the world. For the Turks, being at peace within themselves, doe beare one common hatred against all Christians, that they may subdue them, and destroy their name and memory from the earth : But on the other side, we make peace with Turks, and turne our swords against our owne sides, having our pleasure only, with ciuill warres and domesticke broiles, to destroy one another, as if we had conspired with the common enemy, to make our selues an easie conquest unto his tyranny. And if this be not madnesse and fury, I know not what is madnesse. But let vs returne to Mahomet:

Who, although he was of such a tyrannous nature, as I have declared, yet contrary to al other Barbarians, hath this praise and commendation giuen him by all Historiographers, namely that he burned alwaies with an incredible desire to understand all good Arts and Histories. For he caused the Histories of all Nations, having to his infinite charge gathered them together out of all places, to be translated into the Turkish tongue, that they might serue him as a well-furnished store-houſe of graue examples, fit for imitation and practise, in the use of warre, and military discipline: What kind of stratagems and war-like policies he hath gathered out of them, his owne manner of Gouernment, and the Commemoraries of Vicentinus, his freed-bondman, and of many others that haue written thereof, doe declare at large. Among the rest, these Epistles, being so wittily, and grauely written, deserue not the least nor the last commendation. For they were written by himselfe, either as he marched and set foorth against his enemies, or else when he encamped: against whose testimonie, being most priuyn to his owne resolutions and warre-like affaires, there is no exception can be taken. And where he vseth in them a certaine kind of Laconicall brevity, it is not for want of time to write more largely, but because his desire was alwaies to expresse his minde in a full and plaine kind of speech, without vaine and needlesse circumstances. For they that are wise indeed, are euer accustomed to deliuer much matter in few words: which praise Homer giveth unto Menelaus the Spartan, and many other great personages are commended by others, for the same quality and vertue.

Yet

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Yet I deny not, but this witty and concise kind of speech which Mahomet useth, doth sauour very much of tyranny: because it is common with Tyrants to deliuer their minds in few termes, and those also very imperious and menacing, as their owne verse declareth;

Sic volo, sic iubeo, stat pro ratione voluntas.
So doe I will, So I command,
And let my will for reason stand.

As for the responsory letters, which are wouen in the same loome, I haue no more to say, but that they shew a manifest contempt of the Tyrant and his threatnings, holding it farre better to hazard the worst of Fortune, then to yeeld their nekes to the cruelly yoake of his intolerable flauery. But to let passe all Histories, is it not a lamentable thing to consider, how he hath subdued and conquered all places that he came unto? so that he may truly say of himselfe, as once said Iulius Cæsar:

Veni, Vidi, Vici.
I came, I saw, I ouercame.

And thus much shall suffice of him. Now concerning the Translatour of these Epistles, (one Laudinius a man famous and well knownen to the world, as well for his learning, as for the honour and place which hee had amongst the Knights of Hierusalem) he deserueth no lesse praise for translating, then the Author himselfe for composing them. For he hath so louely and significantly expressed the conceit and meaning of a strange tongue, that he seemeth altogether to relish of Tullie his elegancy and sweetnesse. Therefore my hope is, that good men will not dislike my trauels in publishing the same; which having finisched, I thought good to dedicate the same to you, most noble and worthy Gentlemen. For I understand by good and credible report, that you doe apply your whole study unto learning and know-

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ledge ; and that no day passeth you without some time drawnen to that purpose. Assuredly, though you are descended of many most ancient and noble Gentlemen, and may justly boast the honorable badges and armes of your Ancestours ; yet the best and readiest way to raise your titles, and to make you more honorable, is to be learned. Which way if you will pursue with your accustomed diligence, you shall shortly reap the happy fruits of your long studies, namely, variety of all perfect and true knowledge, and a noble reputation graced with the best preferments both with Prince and people : The one being enabled through your graue and learned counsels, will gouern his estate virtuously, and the other having confidence in your vertue, will feare no dangers. O happy, and thrise happy are they, to whom such blessings are given of God. Indeed the common sort of Gentlemen, of whom Carneades sometimes spake, because they learne nothing but to ride horses are in no estimation, no not with the meanest of the multitude. For is there any thing in them, that appeareth worthy or commendable ? Cannot every vulgar and base fellow learne to manage a horse aswell as they ? Which I speake not to disgrace riding and horsemanship : but wish rather it may haue it's due honour and respect : only I would not haue you to be of their number who giuing themselves wholy to this quality make slow proceedings or none at all in the way of learning; wherein I doubt not, but your fathers iudgment doth concurre with mine, as I might well perceiue at my first acquaintance with him, when in the Castle of Stradthag I taught that worthy and noble Gentleman, Count Ernestus, the true and sole heire of the Countie of Schoumburg. For considering with himselfe, what great commodities learning bringeth with it to all sorts of persons, his principall care and study was to commit you to the hands of graue and learned teachers, to be instructed, and to prouide for you according to your estates, competent and necessarie exhibition. For all which his fatherly care and bounty, he requireth no more of you but to be diligent to furnish your selues with all good learning and knowledge. Which if you will doe, you will reioice the harts not only of
your

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your parents, but also of all those that loue you, and you shall
be highly esteemed amongst the chiefest Nobilitie. But it is
needlesse to spurre a free horse, or to exhort you that are alrea-
die prepared and addressed to this vertuous course.

Therefore I will stay my selfe heere, humblie be-
seeching you to take in good part this slender
signification of my dutious affection
towards you and your stu-
dies. Fare you
well.

Your Hon: most devoted

M. HERMANN: VASTELLAB.

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THE PREFACE OF
L A V D I N I V S *Knight of*
Hierusalem, written to Francinus
Beltrardus concerning the let-
ters of the Great
Turke.



O whom rather (my deare *Francinus*) should I send the letters which I haue late-
ly published, then vnto you? wherein I
haue sought more to please my selfe, then
to be praised of others: for hauing reti-
red my selfe for my recreation to *Cetium*, a
towne in Campania, I thought good to present these vnto
you, that thereby I might render you an account both of
my diligence and studies. The Commentaries which I be-
gan to write to the Pope, the greatness of the worke com-
pelled me to giue ouer vntill an other time. I know that
heerein I doe expose my selfe to the detraction of many;
considering how most men are so froward and peeuiish in
their opinions, that they will judge nothing according to
right, but will measure all things by their owne reason.

And so seeing we haue lost the truth long sithence,

I am contented to leaue this censure of
me to the posteritie. *Nunc*

puerinasum Rhinocero-
sis habent.

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THE ARGUMENT

of these Letters.

Mahomet Emperour of the Turkes, sur-named for the woorthiness of his exploits, the *Great Turke*, when (having increased the forces which his father left him) he had conquered *Asia*, he transported ouer *Hellefponne* an infinite armie into *Europe*, and with the same wonne *Bizantium* the famous and noble citie of *Constantine*. He brought also to his subiection *Mygia*, *Galatia*, *Thracia*, *Achaia*, *Peloponnesus*, *Acarnania*, *Aetolia*, *Ambrachia*, *Epirus*, and all that coast of *Illyria*, besides twelue kingdomes in the lesser *Asia*: namely, *Pontus*, *Bithynia*, *Cappadocia*, *Paphlagonia*, *Cilicia*, *Pambilia*, *Lycia*, *Caria*, *Lydia*, *Pitygia*, and *Hellefpon*. All which are at this day vnder the gouernment of the Turke: who, (as occasions presented themselues vnto him) directed of late his letters vnto diuers persons and people of the world; partly in the *Syrian* and *Greeke* tongue, and partly in the *Scythian* or *Slauonian*. These comming into the handes of *Laudinius* Knight of *Hierusalem*, who vnderstandeth these languages perfectlie, were translated by him into the *Latin*, and are now published in *English* for the good of those that desire to know the affaires and proceedings of the Turke.

The Turke to Sancassan king of Persia.



Doe heare, that thou hast passed *Euphrates*, and hast brought a great power vnto *Lepta*, that thou art entred with the same into the confines of *Parthia*, and there puttest all to the fire & sword; that with thy forces thou hast invaded *Armenia*, and conueied thine armie thither; and that, haning spoiled the cities, thou hast diuided the townes, villages, and fieldes as a pray to thy souldiers. Surely I wonder much that thou bearest the mind not of a conquerour, but of a robber. Therefore having mustered our people out of all *Greece*, we make ready to fight with thee, that thou maisest war with thine enemy with equall forces. For it is base and dishonorable for great and mightie kings, to make warre like theues.

Sancassan to the Turke.

HAving encamped at the foote of the mountaine Taurus, I went presently in all haste with the armie to lay siege to *Thesiphon*: and hauing wasted all the borders of *Armenia*, I forced all the countrey for feare of my power to obey me. Which maketh me the rather to woonder, that thou doest call my deedes in question, considering that as they are many and famous, so they haue bene all archieued after the due course of warre and law of Armes. Know therefore, that of our enemies we seeke not praise, but victorie.

The Turke to Sancassan.

ICame with my armie to the straights of *Cilicia*, where with a memorable ouerthrow Alexander the Great ouercame Darius. Neither doe we promise to our selues any other successe of our warres: seeing we haue already matched Alexander in the glorie and fortune of our exploits. For great enterpryses are not performed by the furie and rage of a rude multitude: but victorie consisteth in the promise of a fewe.

Sancassan to the Turke.

WHEN I doe consider my owne power, and the greatnessse of my noble actes, wherein I haue beene as fortunate as the immortall Gods, I cannot but laugh at thy rash and foolish preparations: especially, hauing alwaies commanded a most inuincible army, by whose valour I am stiled *The most fortunate King*. All the *Bactrians*, *Persians*, *Medes*, *Armenians*, *Parthians*, and almost the whole East: I haue subdued with my armes: and since Alexander the Great, none but I durst make warres vpon the nations. Cease therefore to boast of the great

great fortune of the place at the straights of Cilicia. An Indian Elephant doth not feare a Gnat. There is nothing so hard and difficult, but the constant resolution of souldiers will ouercome it. And there is no place so inaccessible, but valour will enterit.

Sexuares King of Armenia to the Turke.

WE haue sent our Ambassadours as farre as *Thesiphon* vnto *Sancassan*, who with incredible preparations, hath entered *Mesopotamia*, and marcheth with a great power to besiege *Babylon* and *Carras*. Also he purposeth that *Syria* and all *Egypt* shall be a pray vnto him. So numberlesse an Army and so mighty an Host, we remember not to haue euer beene assembled in one place: so that for his great strength, he seemeth to exceed *Xerxes*, *Darius*, *Pyrrhus*, and *Alexander*. Adde hereunto six hundred thousand horsemen, and so many footmen. His magnificent and sumptuous prouision for the warre, and his tents beset all about with pearles and pretious stones declare evidently that it is a royall preparation. They say that he hath in his Tents seuen hundred concubines and as many boies. Also the Eunuches and Camp-masters following the carriages are reported to be six thousand. Finally, they haue armour and weapons of all sorts appertaining to the warre: namely, French curans, Spanish targets, Romane buskins, Candian arrowes, Parthian bowes, and *Ægyptian* speares. All which things being carefully discouered by our spies, we haue signified vnto you at large. For who dares attempt any thing rashly against him, that seemeth to be able to contend for soueraignty with the Gods themselves? Or will any man neglect to prouide the best he may for his safety, when he standeth so neere to destruction?

The

The Turke to Sexuares.

THe thinges thou hast signified unto vs by thy Ambassadors, touching the prouision Sancassanus makes against vs, are so farre from amating vs, that they haue animated the mindes of our souldiours, and increased their wonted courage, for that confidence they haue alwaies had in warre, and hopes, to carrie away the spoiles of their enemies, are redoubled by there-report: as for concubines, iewels, and other accidentall ornaments of an armie, pertaining to the vnnecessarie brauerie, and not the true being of a souldiour, I esteeme them to availe not a rush vnto victorie: for whiles they are rather a binderance to the enemie, they seeme to inflame the appetites of our souldiours, and whet them unto the pray: neither yet do we contend about kingly brauerie, delights and dainties, but for victorie, and militarie manhood, whereby kingdomes are purchased: as for his numberlesse heapes of men, we scorne them; for the base unlettered multitude is fitter to flee then fight, readier to take them to their heeles and runne away, then to stand for victorie, and win the day.

The Soldan to the Turke.

When newes are brought me, how many fields are wonne by thy sword, and when I heare the great woonders of thy exploits, it will not sinke into my head, that so great things come to passe, either by thine owne, or by thy souldiours valour; its the hand of Fortune, I rather beleue, who ouerrules all actions; yet doe I not for all that, enuie any whit thy praises: for what generous minde will not commend vertue, euен in an enemie: but such verily is the reeling weakenesse of humane things, that all things except they be ruled by fatall necesstie, seeme to be at Ladie Fortunes pleasure, and after her countenance, rather then to be directed by the wisedome, and concluded by the hand of man.

The

The Turke to the Soldan.

THOU art farre wide, man, and not a little deceived, to thinke, those men commit all to Fates and Fortune, who worke all by counsell and good advise. Virtue is not subiect to berul'd, nor ouerrul'd by Fortune; but its reason, the Lady regent, and mistres of mans house, that ouerswaises in all things, by which we come neerer in nature to the gods, then other creatures. Notwithstanding, lo the heere areas of the things haue beeene done by vs, so many and so great. If we want no trustie wakefull centonels to watch; if we haue good store of welldisciplined, and old trained souldiers; if we haue plentie of fresh water souldions of good hope, pickt out of all degrees; if our armie be puissant, accustomed well to ouercome, but knowes not how to be ouercom'd; an armie, that can liue long winters a most hardie life intents; exercised with great iourneies, exposed to manie dangers, hardned with manifold labours by sea and land; weareied with no occasion of warre, whose forefront neuer yet yeelded one foote of ground, no man daring to turne his backe; an army that hath learned patience to endure both hot and cold, neither cast downe with aduersitie, nor lifted up with prosperitie; that by vertue hath made triumphes of all euils, that by warfare tho farre from home, hath brought under their girdle innumerable nations of the world, and often put to flight incredible troupes of men; for which I my selfe stand establisched Emperour of almost all the East. Now, if you call all these things Fortune, if you will haue all these to be plaide by happe hazard, then I confesse all things are turned vp and downe, to rise or fall, as Fortunes smile or frowne.

The Turke to the Pope of Rome.

VWE haue inuaded Corinthus with armes, the most noble citie of Achaia; we haue besides set foote in Aetolia, advanced our colour in Macedonia, and
C marched

marched the pace of victorie through all Peloponnesus from end to end; the villages, cornefields, and townes, that stood in our way we haue spolled farre and neare by fire, and turned them into smoake, to make way before vs, that without any let, we may make warre upon Italy, and Rome at last to stoupe. All these things doe we let theeto understand to the great terrorour, and greater losse of all Christians.

The Pope of Rome to the Turke.

VVE minde to reuenge, not so much thy bloudy cruelty in putting all Greece to fire and sword, as the spoiles and ruines off so many famous Cities; for how may we hope thou shouldest so temper victory, that thou wilst shew mercy and vse clemency towards thine enemies, who neuer yet sparedst thine owne in cruelty, wickednesse and lust? neither can there be any thing kept right or holy in actions tweene man and man when God is had in contempt, and Gods religion in neglect; we haue not deserved so at thy hands, that thou shouldest bring warre vpon Italy, and beare armes against Rome; yet shall we be able, to contemne with ease the vniust armes of wicked men, who haue the armes of God to gard vs, and dwell secure vnder the wings of heauens protection.

The Turke to the Pope of Rome.

IN vaine, by great God Mabomet I sweare, doest thou reason the case with vs, who meane not to striue with thee about holynesse; nor is religion the golden ball we run for; nor yet is Injustice the end and aime of our swords; but the bent of our desires is to inlarge the bounds of our Empire; let the better cause be counted his that hath the field, let him be iuster in his plea, that stronger is in armes: as for cruelty, and lust, two things thou hast so burdened vs withal, know thou, we therefore practise them upon our captives, because we would not haue our fame to belie vs,

but that men may finde me the very same indeed, whom fame re-
ports me in words.

The Pope of Rome to the Turke.

Although our cause which moues vs to warre against thee be most iust, yet haue we taken arms vpon vs not with like wickednesse to thee, only in a lust of Lordly raining, but in a necessity of defending our liberty. For who can with patience beare a Tyrant? What man can indure so damnable and vnmanly manners? For looke, whats vsuall in others, when feare, hate, or anger mooues them vnto bitterness against their vnderlings, thou of thy selfe and voluntary motion without any other motiue art more barbarous then they all, who gloriest more in cruelty then victory it selfe, vpbraiding the captives with their misery, to make them more miserable. Expect therefore to pay, what thou owest, deserued punishments for thy misdeeds; for God though he hath leaden heels, yet he hath iron hands, and will recompence the slow pace of reuenge, with the greater blow of painement.

The Turke to the *Venetians*.

ICame unto Patra with so mighty an Army, that I ouercame with a looke; the first step was victory; and at first sight all was mine owne. These are the things we let you to understand with the no little dammage of your Common-wealib.

The *Venetians* to the Turke.

IT was neither by experience of warre, nor valour of soul-diours, thou ouercamest vs at Patra: fortune must haue all the thanks. Who seeing she is not in the hands and power of men, well maiest thou feare one day to prooue, what others now feele; looke thou therefore for a change, and

an ebtide of that fortune, thou now so fondly and lightly boastest in ; for peace hath the praise of victory, where more is done by the will and pleasure of Fortune, then is foreseen by the counsell, or brought about by the strength of men.

The Turke to the Magistrats of Grecia.

IT will not greeue you, I know, neither will you think much, to give ouer armes at first, and begone ; who notwithstanding, I haue so oft vanquished you in the field, yet, as I heare, you still repaire your broken forces, and still prepare for warre : It becomes conquerers to bid battell, and the conquered to obey their lawes ; we hold it therefore safer for you to entertaine equal conditions of peace, then to be vanquished againe in warre, and so to lose both peace, and armes ; for when the field is lost, deliberation comes too late.

The Magistrats of Grecia to the Turke.

VWE will not give our backs with a fare-well to armes, before we encounter thee & beat backe againe those iniuries by which thou so often gloriest in a foolish madnesse, thou hast triumphed ouer vs in the field ; for, thou canst not be ignorant, how doubtfully hangs the euent of things, and how changeablely the common fortune of warre reeles from the one to the other side. We scorne that peace, thou offerest vs with slavery, and wouldest haue vs accept as conquered men ; as for thy good counsell, keeps it to thy selfe ; enemies are not to be consulted with for the good of actions twixt vs and them.

The Turke to the Venetians.

YOU trouble, I heare, and molest the sea coasts of Licia with your Navy, you prouided so great a one for the use of war by sea ; and not onely so, but after you had wasted with fire and

and sword the borders of my Kingdome all ouer, you haue besieged, I heare, Athalia, a Citie of Pamphilia: Consider, I pray you, what conclusion will follow vpon these premises; he is foolehardy and vnadvised that by warre assaultis another mans estate, when he can hardly defend his owne; for it behoves and stands you upon, since you lost Colchis, to preserue rather the common wealth, and uphold still the old dignity of your name, then by unlikely armes to secke after anew Empire.

The Venetians to the Turke.

Neither Peloponnesus, nor Colchis, themselues, tho lost long since by the destiny and sentence of warre, can dant or discourage our minds from new assaults; howsoeuer thou broughtest those cuntries vnder thy command, not by manhood of souldiers, but wonne to thy hand by a treacherous betraying of our men; we notwithstanding, who seeke not to gaine kingdomes by treachery, but victory by armes, haue laboured by our Nauy to make all things by all meanes offensiuе to thee and thine by sea and land; for he is farre from the vertuous minde of a generous Prince, that inlargeth his dominion with Cities not taken by the Law of armes, but stollen by the false play of hidden guile.

The Turke to the Genuensians.

IHeare that Menedorus in his Orations before the people, doth often brand my name with the blacknesse of feoule disgrace, as if by his illspeaking, he could worke vs any iniury, who haue learned long since to feare no words: but you are greatly deceiued; for we warre with you not by bitter gall of words, but by deeds of armes and dint of swords; he can easilly contemne what men say of him, and laugh to heare his enemies rail on him, who for the loue of Lordships, and desire of more Kingdomes, would not shun infamy it selfe.

The Genuensians to the Turke.

Neither doth Menedorus by the authority of our Se-
natours, neither doe our Citizens by the decrees of
our Citie pursue thee with disgrace, but by a certaine
inbred and vnappeaseable hate of thee, who hast made all
men thine enimies, and prouoked them vnto iniury: as for
the iniuries we haue receiued at thy hands, be thou well assu-
red, we goenot about to requite them with words, but
meane to repay them with our swords: it skils but a little in
our opinion, what men say of thee; thy deeds will not let
fame belie thee; and thy shamelesse dishonesty of an ill led
life is now become senselesse against all regard of honesty.

The Turke to the Naritians.

WE accuse, ó Naritians, your foolish madnesse, not in a
feare of warre, but in that you perswade your selues, I
purposely and of mine owne accord beare armes against you, as if
fillie worthless mice were a worthy pray for the kingly Lion: is it
not a shame, if the Elephant should striue with Gnats?

The Naritians to the Turke.

VV E would to God thou didst so scorne the Nariti-
ans, as an obiect of too low degree, and as a pray
too base for thy braue minde; then should our eies be lesle
fixed on thy power, and hearts lesle troubled with thy
might. But pardon vs that haue suffered so many e-
uils of our enimies, if experiance and re-
membrance of by-past times make vs
ooke about, and haue a
care of time to
come.

The Turke to the Corcyrians.

YOU haue confessed an iniurie, ô Corcyrians, whiles you make hanocke in the borders of Ambrachia, and spoile every where the fields of Acarnania, turning all thinges to your owne pray, notwithstanding I haue so oft formerly forgsuen you. But let those men that are so forward, as to be first in iniuries towards others, expeste a day of painement with vsurie.

The Corcyrians to the Turke.

THOU art much and more, mistaken, if thou supposest, we onely confessed an iniury, and did no more. For we haue besides brought desolation vpon thy countries, and left behind vs every where the sensible testimonies of warre ; therefore did we first raise warre against thee, to inuite our vertues vnto greater exploits, and to rowse vp our resolutions for greater indeuours ; For we cannot with patience indure the inhumaine cruelty of a Tyrant, that by all kinde of inhumanity and lawlesse lust hath offered violence to all sorts of men.

The Turke to the king of Cyprus.

AT the Calends of August I came with an Army into Cilicia to winne the most opulent citie Tharsia ; as for Lpus, the Legat of thy nauie, we slew him taken prisoner not farre from Phreata. See thou therefore vnto whose hands thy fathers kingdome now is come, feare Fortunes inconstancie, for in humane things nothing is in all respects, and alwaies happy, or constant in happiness without change.

The King of Cyprus to the Turke.

VHEN by force of Armes I demanded Cyprus, mine owne, againe, I put to flight mine enemies at the mountaines

mountaines Ceraunia, not by any power I borowed of my fathers kingdome, whose fortune was then to liue at Carree a banished man, destitute and far distant from mine owne; yet notwithstanding by and by, so soone as I once entred the Iland with but a little band of men, I vanquished with a handfull, incredible heapes of our enimies, in so much that all men said, I had outgone Euagoras. Its not then by chance and peraduentures, but by wisdome and souldiers valour, that wee manage our affaires, neither doe we glory so much in what we haue well done, as we fore-thinke and prouide for things to come. As for Fortune, she is more to be feared of thee, whom she seemes to haue lifted vp so high that she may give thee a greaterfall, and whom she seemes now to fawne so much vpon in the fortunate successe of things, that she may more easily deceiue thee brought a bed in a fooles paradise with too much felicity to commit all things to Fortunes hazard; and to stay our selues, on her restlesse wheele, I know not whether it be more vncertainty or more foole-hardinesse in a man.

The Turke to the Methonensians.

Neither will we, ô Methonensians, as yet set vpon your City, neither yet will we that it free and secure from the assault of our Army, till by long protracted and continued warre, your Citizens turne warre into hatred, and hate armes, as their greatest harmes. For so fares it with men, whose liues are in a continuall labour with a trucelesse siege of sickenesse, till in an irke-some tediousnesse of weary languisment, death becomes more desired then length of life; life now held their foe, and death their friend.

The Methonensians to the Turke.

Little, or lesse then nothing, haue we alwaies esteemed those armes, which strike terror to cowards, and bring with them faint-harted feare to white liuered men; but adde

adde no vertue to valorous minds. Thou maiest doe well to spare thy selfe, and saue that care thou hast of vs ; for we haue learned to beare aduersity, without the counsell of our enimies. We would thou shouldest well know , those armes can never be turned to hate , which woorthy Citizens haue tatten vp to defend their country , and countries liberty, with Parents , Wiues and Children , against the ynbridled lust of lawlesse Tyrants.

The Cretians to the Turke.

IT hath alwaies beene lawfull, euен by the ordinances of our auncestors, to answer violence with violence, and to crie quit for quo with craft ; neither yet doe wee transgresse the rules of friendship , when we onely reuenge the iniurieſ of our enimies : but with what face dost thou call on vs, for fidelitie, branding vs with ſo blacke an imputatiōn, as is falſhood vnder the colour of faith, ſeeing thou thy ſelfe haſt neuer kept truthe with any ?

The Turke to the men of Chios.

VVE haue returned you againe, o Chions, your tribute money; for when we conſidered the greatneſſe of your meriſ towards vs, we preſently deſcreed your freedome, and com-manded, Be you free; for its not money, but affection and fidelity thatſ required of friends.

The men of Chios to the Turke.

NOt what we deſire, when we remember thy ſo great liberality towards vs; (for then euен wiſhes come ſhort of our deſires, needeſ muſt then our abilitie come farre be-hinde , as neuer able to giue a bodie vnto our wiſhes, nor accomplishment to our deſires) but what we are able, wee giue thee now and euer, immortall thanks; our comfort

D yet

yet is this ; well may our friends surpassee vs in facultie, and goe beyond vs in abilitie, but ouercome vs they shal not in liberalitie.

The Turke to the Epidaurians.

THe Abideans, Phrygians, and Dardans, as I heare, who before were the onely Pyrats on all the seas, are now in-trapt and surprized at Milas, as also put to death by sundrie sorts of torments. You haue done well, I would thinke, by the lawes of armes ; yet we cannot but account it absurd, that you burned the gallies and gally-foists with fire ; for warre is not with senselesse ships (what shal they feele ?) but with the men that manage them.

The Epidaurians to the Turke.

Not onely the death of captiued pyrats, but also the fireing of the ships is warranted by the rules of warre, the one for that they haue so oft troubled and indamaged vs by inuasions ; the other for that they lodged traytors, and brought theeues into our borders : we thought it therefore meet to burne the ships, together with the shipmen, for oft had they runne away with the bootie of our goods, and transported our spoiles into Asia. Now are not the weapons wherewith we are set vpon, to be numbred amongst our enemies.

The Turke to the Nauplensians.

VVill you never giue ouer, nor make an end of insurries, o Nauplensians ? because you haue set foote within the borders of Achaia, and by your often inuasions, led away many a man for spoiles ; because you thrive in ill doing, will you not cease to doe ill ? for how can it be, that men shut vp with siege, and close prisoners to feare, should put to sword the townes of the conquerour,

conquerour, and waste his fieldes with fire? doe not they seeme too late to provide for the good of their countrey, who when all things are desperate, venture vpon impossibilities, and cast themselves on all extremities?

The Nauplensians to the Turke.

For our native countries sake, the common mother of vs all, and for the safetie of our Citizens, as the common good that sits so neere vs all, to which two things we owe our selues and all that's ours, doe we willingly sacrifice our lives, and obiect them to all extremities. For either will we die with honour in the defence of our country, and maintenance of our freeborne liberty; or els (as victorie may fall on our side) our hands shall keepe our neckes from the heauie yoke of tyrannie, and preserue vs still for terme of life, our ancient freedome. For we esteeme nothing more glorious then to preferre our countries libertie before our parents, our children, and all things els.

The Turke to the Pannonians.

Howsouer, ò Pannonians, you haue oft giuen triall, how great your man-hood is in warre, yet haue you alwaies found it in experiance, how little you haue got by it, if you compare your goods and ills together. For they that beare stomachs greater then their strength, and carry minds larger then the measure of their owne power, haue euer beeene too rash in vndertaking, and impotent in undergoing warre.

The Pannonians to the Turke.

We come not to aske counsell of thee vnto our wars, we challenge thee not for want of widdome to order thy affaires, neither will we require a reason of our enemie for those armes he beares against vs,

for they have wit enough to doe their businesse, and manage their actions, that by valour of minde and constancie, haue purchased themselues victory with praise:

The Turke to the Macedonians.

YOur Ambassadours brought me that you gaue them in charge: whereby you pronoke me rather unto pitie than unto hate; for it seemed to become you farre better, who haue beene conquered so oft, and brought so oft to be suters on your knees, to receive with thanks, and not to offer with such impudencie the conditions of peace: is it not shame, that men in miserie by war should stand on proud termes with their conquerors?

The Macedonians to the Turke.

WHat iust and equal peace can there be twixt thee and the Macedonians? we desire and endevour to defend our country, and our lawes; thou not content with thine owne, thirstest after other kingdomes by force of armes, and seekest to stretch out thine Empire beyond thy bounds: we cannot but speake touching our common-wealth, as it becomes our constancie and generous mindes, that we hold nothing dearer, and sweeter among men, then libertie; yet this hath alwaies beene the common vice and fault of tyrants; free states they hate to death, free cities stand too much in their sight.

The Turke to the Asiaticks.

YOur Ambassadors delivered their ambassage at Zizicus. In words, it seemes, you are our friends, and confederates unto armes; but in deed and trueth, you are our enemies. Either therefore send us in all haste large ships for assistance, or chuse unto you warre: for the affection of friends consists not in words, but in deeds, when need requireth.

The

The *Asiaticks* to the Turke.

THAT we promise many things before thee by the mouth of our Ambassadors, and performe but fewe things, of what we promised, the one was the issue of thankfull mindes; the other must be ascribed to wants. We sent thee presents by Mearchus, which if they seeme lesse then thy desert, and too little for thy greatnesse; yet well maiest thou thinke them greater then our abilitie is able wel to give; howsoeuer thankfulness makes vs stretch out our hands beyond our reach.

The Turke to the *Bithynians*.

YOU neither sent vs ships for the vse and seruice of warre, nor yet money in due time. We accuse therefore and charge you with unfriendly backwardnesse. Take heed, I pray you, how you make them angrie with you, and prouoke them to hostile indignation, whom you now seeme to contemne with neglect. For it is better alwaies to take vp voluntarie armes against our enemies, then after many dammages and manifold indignities to be enforced to the field.

The *Bithynians* to the Turke.

THE ships we lost of late, conquered vnto ashes by the furie of the fierie conquerour, come to the number of twise ten in all; as for the rest of our ships, some split themselfes on hardie rocks at Malea, and found to their owne vndooing, that stones are stronger; some perished in the conflict with our enemies; the sea swallowed others vp, by drowning saued frō other deaths; yet dead & drowned are both but one; this perisheth as well as that. For our money, its run low; our treasurie is neere drawn dry, by feeding the fire of warre so long: thou therefore for thy humanitie pardon, we pray thee, those whom Fortune hath made so mis-
erable;

serable; for how can they give that haue their hands cut off? and what can they give, that liche their knife?

The Turke to the Coronensians.

ARe you not assained, ô Coronensians, after you haue beene thrice ouerthrown in open field, and ouercome on euene ground, to reniue battell yet againe, and yet againe to patch up an army? do you therefore so often reiterate armes, and renew old warres, that late repentance; may the oftner make rods for your follie, and bring a potion in her hand when all is too late and life is gone? If the bent and aime of those armes you beare against vs, be for the purchase of peace, we pardon your feare; if in a hope of victory, considering your case so desperate, your state and strength at so low an ebbe, we accuse your madnesse.

The Coronensians to the Turke.

WHat else doe they that often raise warre against their enemies, but shew themselves more then most desirous of peace? For no peace can be secured, nor security established to Citizens with hope of continuance, without warring with their aduersaries, and opposition to their opposites. The arbitrement of war and peace, consists in victory.

The Turke to the Florentines.

YOur Merchants, which traffike in Pontus and Galatia, sent to intreate vs at Theffalonica for freedome from tribute, and roultakers, with free cariage and recariage. We therefore, that delight in nothing more, and hold nothing more honorable, then to exercise liberality towards our friends (liberality, the fairest and loueliest of vertues:) haue granted and freely giuen the liberties and priuiledges of our City to your Citizens; for, who bestowes a benefit on weldeserving men, seemes not so much to give any thing, as to requite a good turne.

The

The Florentines to the Turke.

WE will easily yeeld to thee, as far inferiour to striue with thee in greatnesse of good-turndes: but pardon vs, if we will not be overcome in thankesfulnesse of minde: the abundance of our harts shall make some amends for the shortnesse of our hands: for we haue alwaies prized it high-ly, and valued it in the height of affection, that thou shouldest doe a thing so plausible to our Citizens, and so worthy of thy selfe; yet can we not, but account it a matter of more woorth in loues estimation, that we repay thee with more then our purses are well able to beare; for the woorth of a benefit goes not by the greatnesse of the thing it selfe; but it is the minde and good-will of the giuer, that sets the price on what is giuen, which can be recompenced with nought but with the same againe.

The Turke to the Pontians.

WE haue sent you home againe the Merchant-ships we tooke prisoners in the Aegean seas, which molested the Ocean as so many blockehouses: but not to curry fauour, I call the Gods to witnesse, nor yet to be rewarded, haue I done so with you; for we verily hold it greater glory to giue, then take; and out of our liberality to returne all men double for what we take.

The Pontians to the Turke.

TO be large hearted, and liberally handed towards all men, what else is it in very deed, but to deserue the hearts and tongues of all men? so gracious a vertue is liberalitie, and of such an attractive power. Thy humanitie and vnmerited fauour in sending vs home our shippes againe, hath made them that were once thy foemen, now for euer thy fast friends and sworne confederates to beare a part

in all thy wars, so comely and louely is it to change iniurie
into fauours, and make peace of warre.

The Turke to the Cretians.

ITs very dishonorable to vs and our State, ô Cretians, to imbrace and continue a league of friendship, with them, that in their deeds shew themselves to practise war, rather then peace, and under the vizer of friends, to play the part of foes: but consider I beseech you, how safe and good it will be for you, to feare them anon as your enemies, whom before when they were your friends, you contemned without right or reason. Repentance is the follower of rash attempts; and hath oft ouertaken many a bold beginner.

The Great Turke to the Delphians.

Neither the Oracles of your God Apollo, nor Aescularius your God of Physicke could cleere you altogether of frensie, who so vnadvised haue ordered matters, that euен Minerva her selfe, the Goddes of aduise, cannot giue aduise in so great folly and madnesse. For the infirmities of the body be oftentimes healed, good meanes being vsed; but no remedy or medecine is of force to cure the disease of the minde.

The Delphians to the Turke.

IT seemes indeed that we haue taken small aduise and vsed but little discretion in managing our affaers; yet it falleth out with vs as it doth for the most part with Physitians, who haue skil in other mens sicknesse to find the cause and worke the cure, but seldom or neuer helpe and heale themselues.

The Turke to them of Pergamum.

KNow you, the Gouvernours and inhabitants of Pergamum, that we haue undertaken a voyage, intending to bend our forces

forces against the Eubœians. Wherefore it is our will and command that you meeete vs at Marathon, that by this meanes you, who haue alwaies manifested your faithfullnesse towards vs as occasion was offered, may now also shew your readinesse & speed when neede requireth. They deserue double thanks who not onely bestow kindnesse very frankly, but giue that which they bestow, if not without asking, yet without delay.

The Pergamenians to the Turke.

VVE are ready to set forwards to the warres with a great fleet, not onely to multiply and encrease your forces, but also to giue a more fierce assault and lay sorer siege against the Chalcidensians. They deserue but small thanks who cheerefully performe their bounden duty, when they haue ability and opportunity to do it.

The Turke to the Mitylenians.

ALthough the faithfullnesse of you of Mitylene hath bene euermore so apparant that we neuer made doubt of the same, notwithstanding you neuer manifested the same more then in this (which I heare of late) that you haue not suffered your enemies and ours to take possession of your citie, but shut the gates against them : For you are farre from that perfidiousnesse which is in some, who are ready upon every profer to entertaine new friends and new factions. You hold it a matter so glorious to defend with force of armes your country and state, when you may doe it without violation of the Lawes of friendship.

They of Mitylene to the Turke.

THE Mitylenians, who hauing now no face of a common-wealth left must live in perpetuall subiection and slauery, haue thought it farre better to remaine vnder the gouernment of one, then to make triall of the re-

giment of many ; wherefore you ought not so much to approue our fidelity in this , as admire our prouidence and policy . For we doe not propound them to our selues as paterns and examples for imitation , who being sicke of an incurable disease take aduice of a multitude of Physitians ; and notwithstanding they vse many and diuerte medicines , yet are neuer restored to health of body .

The Turke to the Amazonians.

IF that for the maintenance of the franchisement and liberty of Citizens you Amazonians did wage warre against me , I should not so much hold you my enemies as good citizens who tooke armes in defence of their Country , Children , and Parents : but there is no reason of force to perswade vs that they will now refuse to subiect themselves to men , who heeretofore so long time indured the dominion and principality of women .

The Amazonians to the Turke.

THe raigne and gouernment of the Amazons , which you seeme to cast in our teeth as a reproch & disgrace , doth incourage and prouoke vs not to giue obedience to any other ; for nothing can be more disgracefull for men , then to be found effeminate , yea more faint-harted than women ; wherefore thinke such men to be in warre invincible and most worthy of Soueraignty , amongst whom euен silly women haue learned to sway an Empire .

The Turke to the Sclauonians.

YOU are neither able to defend your citie by force of armes , nor any longer to endure the siege wherewith you are begirt ; therefore you must needs either take lawes as men conquered , or els remooue the siege , by putting to flight the forces of him that seeks to bring you into thralldome . Certainly they haue but little wit , whi-

who being deprived of all aide and succour from their confederates, prolong the warre to the great losse and hinderance of a common-wealth.

The Sclauonians to the Turke.

VHERCAS you are not ignorant that we alwaies haue had a desire and resolution to maintaine and holde our freedome, we haue not yet giuen ouer the hope whereon we anchored; neither indeed is it possible that Fortune should make our state more miserable, whose case is so bad, that it is euен desperate and past cure.

The Turke to the Rhodians.

IF you Rhodians had but as much might as will, and as much strength as valour, I shoulde thinke you were not to be conquer'd by any whatsoeuer: but seeing the necessaries and nerues of warre be men, horse, munition, money and victuals, you ought rather to haue regard to your owne estate, then vnadvisedly to prouoke vs to come in battell against you; for it is not all one to exceed your enemies in courage of minde, and to be able to ouercome them by might and force of armes.

The Rhodians to the Turke.

IT is not vnowne vnto you that we haue alwaies had as well might & strength, as courage and will, and that you haue sufficienly proued by the many, and them no small, overthrowes your men haue receiued by vs: we haue made plentifull prouision and preparation of all things that can be expedient, or necessary for vs in these affaires, so that the policie, prouidence, and wisedome of the Rhodians at home, will drive you to no lesse admiration of them, then their prowesse and manhood abroad; And we are thus resolued, though our forces be not so great as yours, that you

shall vanquish vs rather for want of good Fortune then
good courage.

The Turke to the Rhodians.

IUnderstand that you of Rhodes haue alreadie enuironed your
citie with deepe trenches, and fortified the wals with three
great rampiers, and haue linked vp the harbrough towards
Mandrachium Colossi with iron chaines, that your Citie may be
free from incursion and inrodes of enemies, and we discoura-
ged and withheld from laying siege unto you. A matter indeed
woorthy to be remembred and spoken of. For what is more glo-
rious for a man then to venture his life in fighting for his liberty,
countrey, children, and parentys, that the common-wealth may be
preserued ? But I pray you by that immortall God whom you
serue, what courage haue you to resist our forces by sea and land,
with so great preparation? For seeing we haue after assault ouer-
come and vanquished that famous citie Constantinople, the Ile
Metelin, the countries of Morea and Colchis, it were better and
more besetting you, to beware by others calamitie, & follow their
example in yelding, then to make your selues a spectacle to
others of miserie and destruction. They who audaciously attempt
matters beyond their strength, for the most part suffer condigne
punishment of such foole-hardinesse.

The Rhodians to the Turke.

YOU ought not so much to make relation to vs of the
captiuitie of the Grecians, as to set vs before others
as a paterne of fortitude and valour: who as we haue
a more iust cause to take vp armes, so we haue greater confi-
dence of better successe. You had the ouerthrow by vs
once at the Iland Coes or Langa, and twise at the citie Ca-
lynum; we also besetting the armies of the Soldan king
of Babylon, ouerthrew him, and put him to flight. Yea
moreouer, the Admirals of Rhodes haue often made warre
against

against the Egyptians, Syrians, and Phœnicians. Doe not therefore blame and reproch vs for confidence, who haue preuailed and got the better against so many nations, who may sooner make others more resolute against you by our example, then any whit be discouraged by the rehear-sall of them you haue made your vassals.

The Turke to the Epirotes.

VVE understood by the Ambassadors of Molossia of late that Dyrrachium, Apolonia, and all that part of Sclavonia, is annoied and molested by the incursions and forraging of our armies; and they told vs that theeues lie in waite by the way side, in every narrow passage, & that nothing in Macedonia is in safetie. You inhabitants of Epirus, we haue long since giuen sufficient credite to all they haue informed vs of: but our maner is to trie our right by dint of sword: wherfore I suppose it a matter more beseeming you, (if you call to minde your former valour) to take reuenge on them that doe you wrong, then by your Ambassadors vainely to make complaint to vs of them; for the violence of a mans enemie is hindered not by oratorie, but by force of armes.

The Epirotes to the Turke.

INdeed if it were free for vs, and we had power to doe it by deeds of armes, we had rather our selues be reuenged on our enemies that offer vs iniuries, then intreat of these things before you by our Ambassador: but seeing we are too weake to compasse it, we haue thought it more for our safety to sue to our enemies for peace, then vnder-take warre to no purpose or profit. For it ought to be thought no lesse valour, then policie to foresee and or-der all things by good aduice.

The Turke to the Dalmatians.

VWE enioyned you the paiment a certaine taxe and subside, which seeing you brought in later then was requisite, you make vs to think that you doe it grudgingly and unwillingly; wherefore either approoue your faithfullnesse towards vs in deeds, which need requires, otherwise we will proceed against you in hostilitie, and manifest to the world that we esteeme you as enemies. Dissembling and double dealing is as unmeet amongst friends as may be.

The Dalmatians to the Turke.

YOU should rather blame our want of abilitie in this case, then our backwardnesse, for it is not possible, that he should pay subsidies, that hath no meanes to get money, where nothing is to be had, the king must lose his right; wherefore they are not to be esteemed as enemies, who are still faithfull to their friends, though they cannot expresse it by their bountifull gifts.

The Turke to the Apulians.

VWE are purposed once againe to returne unto the Cities of the Brutians, and all Apulia, farre and neare, to make iust warre against them, who as we haue forcibly brought into subiection the Grecians, and joined them to our Empire, now also make preparation to inuade with our forces that coast of Italic, which heeretofore was called great Gracia. You therefore wisely imitating the ancient inhabitants of those parts, make surrender of your selues, and your cities into our hands: it seemes to be a great shame for good Citizens to revolt from the customes of their Ancestors, and Lawes of their countrie.

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The Apulians to the Turke.

THEY which make their owne will a law, doe declare that all the right and title they haue, is by their force in armes. But you (although you will vs to follow the lamentable example of the Grecians) doe not so muche endeavour to perswade vs to the imbracing of their lawes, as to the entertaining of that gouernment which they are brought vnder: but it is impossible that we should become more ready to yeeld our selues to your mercy then others, seeing you haue most cruelly put to death such men of ours, as you haue taken captiue, omitting no torments that you could inflict vpon them: For kingdoms are easily gotten, and inlarged by mercy, liberality, and justice; but can hardly be kept with any force whatsoeuer if they be tyrannically dealt withall.

The Turke to the Brundusians.

VWE haue intelligence by the Embassadours of Calabria of your gallant hauens and ports to harbour our shippes in, and of the situation of your Cittie. Therefore we appoint you together with the men of Otronto to associate vs to the warres, for we are preparing to conuey ouer our forces into Italy, intending with an huge Army to accomplish our victories. Therefore it doth not beseeme you, nor is it good for you to contemne, or set light by him, whom his owne subiects may loue for his iustice, and his enemies feare for his strength and force in armes.

The Brundusians to the Turke.

ARE you not ashamed to invite them as confederates to take part with you in a most wicked and detestable warre, who haue alwaies shewed themselues of all men most bitter enemies against you? It is most detestable

to

to serue in the warres vnder such a Tyrant, who after victory will haue the captiuated subiect themselues vnto him, notwithstanding his cruelty, villany and abhominable lust.

The Turke to them of Saragosa.

YOn Syracusians, I understand, that you, they of Agrigentum, the Messanians, and Catbanians haue combined your selues together and conspired against vs, for the restoring to the Grecians their former liberties and franchises: we therefore are providing an huge Army to conduct to Syracusa from Morea in Greece, that now at last you may feele the hostility of them, whom before you without all equity scorned to be your confederates.

The Syracusians to the Turke.

If we haue presumed in confidence of our ability, and policy in waging warre to take vp armes against you, we are not to be thought to haue attempted any thing rashly and vnauidisely against our enemy. For with how much the more equity, and right men fight for their country and kingdome, they are made so much the more resolute and in better hope of victory.

The Turke to the Gouernours of Italie.

IUnderstand that Germany, France, and Spaine are in armes against vs, and that you haue exhibited to them Captaines and Generals for the managing of the warre. They seeme to haue little care, and regard of their owne good and security, who unadvisedly without any cause at all prouoke their enemies to war.

The Gouernours of Italie to the Turke.

THe cause of our warre cannot but be most iust, who in detestation of the cruelty and villany of a most ymmercifull

cifull Tyrant doe take armes against you, as against a publicke enemy of nature. We haue not onely conspired with the Germans, French men, Spaniards, and all the East countries, but haue sollicited the free-townes every where to rebell against the Turkish Nation: and therefore the most rich and puissant Kings of the Christians by our perswasion haue mustered vp their forces, and are risen in armes to be reuenged on you for your cruelties, fury, massacres, murders, abhominable lust, burning and sacking of Cities, and to set free the whole world from such outragious iniuries. That warre is most iustly vndertaken which being neglected, the common safety of all is indangered.

The Turke to King Ferdinand.

I Am very glad to heare of your worthy praises, invincible courage, and managing of your affaires to your great glorie and estimation; who, when you haue so often ouerthrown your enemies, haue onely respected this in your victories, that you might be gracious in pardoning them whom you conquered: and not so much that your enemies might feele your iust reuenge, hauing prouoked you thereunto, as that every one might know, and haue experience of your mercifulnesse and clemencie. And that which we account a matter of greatest commendation in a Prince, you haue alwaies shewred your selfe invincible, and not cast downe in aduersitie, when Fortune hath crossed you; and in prosperity, neither proud nor puffed vp. Wee haue willingly made relation of these good parts, and the rather because vertue as it is commendable is a mans aduersary, so it wanteth not due commendations oftentimes from the mouth of an enemy.

Ferdinand to the Turke.

Although we hold it a glory and credit to be commended of our enemies for our great deserts, because their testimonie and approbation is for the most

part true, and friends in shew prooue flatterers in deed, and so deceiue vs in their testimonie of vs: Notwithstanding we doe not so much stand vpon, or delight in any mans commendations in words, as we desire that our owne worthy and notable deeds should make vs famous. Howbeit I willingly imbrace this your testimonie of me, that you thinke me to be such a one, whom for vertue and good parts euer his enemies may admire, and for iust dealing, his subiects and Citizens may honour, and reverence.

The Turke to the Sicilians.

THe Carthaginian capaines, who in times past, so long while contended with the Romans for principallitie, haue given you many overthowes, and brought you to great ruine, because you seldom kept league with them, but tooke part with their enemies. And now I understand that you haue sent aide to the Rhodians at Halicarnassus, and haue conueied thither in your shippes of carriage all furniture and provision for warre. Wherefore we denounce you to be our enemies, and will declare the same by al hostility, that they which were so unaduised, as to so little purpose to offend vs, without any cause to wrong vs, may suffer condigne punishment of such undacionis rashnesse. For it will be not onely for our safetie to reuenge the iniuries that other men doo unto vs, but it will make our enemies to feare vs the more.

The Sicilians to the Turke.

Neither haue we taken vp armes against you, howsoever you accuse vs that we sent aide to the Rhodians in Halicarnassus, nor may we be thought to do anie man wrong if we choose rather to aide our faithfull confederates, then a most cruell tyrant. You may but badly cast in our teeth, the perfidiousnesse and vnfaythfulnesse of our auncestors, who your selfe neuer kept truce or oath with any, and you are ynwile to goe about with bugge-bearers and

and threatening wordes to feare and terrifie them, who are more ready to referre the supposed iniurie to the triall of fire and sword, then determination of words.

The Turke to the Alexandrians.

IHANE interdicted, yee men of Alexandria, all Pontus and Asia to your marchants. For the cities of Bithinia being indebted in great summes of money, sent their Ambassadours from Callipolis to complaine unto mee, holding also in great detestation the usurie of the merchants, wherewith all cities are emp-tied of their money. We hold it therefore better, to prouide for the good of many, then for the profit of a few.

The Alaxandrians to the Turke.

THough it belongeth not to vs to contend with thee about private matters, yet if these things whereof thou writeſt, haue beeſe done or attempted by any, thou canſt deserue for this at our hands neither loue nor hate, ſeeing euery man is permitted to doe as he liketh in his owne affaires.

The Turke to the Tartarians.

VHEREAS others are many times made wicked either by ſome feare, or through neceſſitie, you by the na-ture of the place where yee liue, are of all men liuing the woorſt and vildeſt, being a rude and barbarous multitude without gouernment and without lawe. But foraſ-much as you haue ſent neither moncy nor Ambassadours in time unto vs, you ſhowe evidently that we muſt get both with force.

The Tartarians to the Turke.

Truly thou art worse then madde to exact any thing of vs, who doe live our selues vpon the spoiles of others: and in vaine dost thou expect an Ambassage from those who never learned to intreat, but to fight. Neither oughtest thou to woonder at our maners, seeing they are so little differing from those of beasts. For they which haue beene taught by their ancestors to haue no lawe but armes, yse massacres for a pray, and spoiles for law.

The Turke to the Athenians.

YOur Schooles, ô Athenians, whereby you haue attained to a most flourishing Estate, and to the chiefeſt name and reputation of all good learning and Philosophie, doe perſuade mee much to ſpare your citie, as well for the reverence which I beare to the wifedome and honour of our ancestors, as alſo through the loue which I haue ever carried to the ſtudie of thofe good Arts, which I haue heard were firſt inuented, and afterward made perfect in Athens. But on the other ſide, when I conſider your malice alwaies againſt me, I cannot but thinke, my kindneſſe doth rather prouoke you to hate me, then mooue you any way to be thankfull. Therefore hauing wasted the whole territorie of Eleuſina, from Pyerus to Megara, I haue giuen the ſame to be the pray and ſpoile of my ſouldiours, and am readie in like maner to ſacke the citie: For the iſolencie of an offendour many times exceedeth and deſtroieth the mercy of an enemie:

The Athenians to the Turke.

VWE beare no hatred to thee, for our libertie ſaued; what cauſe haue we? But we haue taken armes for our countrey, for our children, for our parents, to whom we owc all we haue. Neither can we be ſaid to deale with thee

thee like enemies, when we defend our owne, considering thou thy selfe doest fight to take from others. But it behoueth thee to haue regard what thing doth best comport with thy greatnesse. Haue we offended thee? Sylla forgave the Athenians: and twise was Alexander pleased to pardon them. Truely, thy victorie cannot bee great, if thou wilt destroy vs that are the glory of thy conquest. Therefore thou oughtest to saue vs for an example of thy clemencie, that so thou maiest allure all men to loue thee, rather then by exercising thy crueltie, lust, and furie, vpon poore captiues, to prouoke all the Greekes to abhorre thee. As for vs, who haue no other hope or confidence left vs, if thou wilt not pardon vs, wee are resolued valiantly to trie the woorst of Fortune. For what is more honorable, or more pleasing in the world to men of spirit and resolution, then to die couragiouly for the preseruation and safetie of the common-wealth and countrey?

The Turke to the Thebanes.

Yee men of Thebes, I heare you are angrie that I haue spoiled Athens, whom I haue obserued long since to haue beene compaynions in armes, and of counsell against mee. To you therefore, who are alreadie possessed with an horrible feare of the enemie, the same end, the same destinie, and the same miseries, that the Athenians felt, are reserved, which I thought good to signifie unto you, that you may be tormented, first with feare, and conscience of your misdeeds, and then with more greeuous punishments, and tortures.

The Thebanes to the Turke.

THe ruine of the Athenians hath doubled the strength and courage, not onely of the Thebanes, but also of all the Greekes, whom we haue many times restored to their libertie; so as now growing madde with furie, they

doe earnestly pursue thee, to chastice all thy villanies. For in deepe afflictions, desperate resolutions are euer wont to promise an assured safetie. Neither can they that haue vsed to command others, be easely perswaded to obey a tyrant.

The Turke to the Lacedemonians.

IHeare, yee men of Sparta, that you are afraid of the armie which vnder the conduct of Cleander, I sent to besiege your citie, wherein are twentie thousand chosen footmen, and eight thousand of light horsemen: whose noble courage in war & firme faith to me, not onely my selfe haue often tried, but the enemy al-
so hath feared. Therefore it becommeth you being tossed with so many miseries of Fortune, to looke well to the preseruation of the common-wealth, and safetie of your people: lest if following the vertue of your auncestors, you undertake a warre against me, which you are not able to mainteine; you be compelled to pay deereley for your rashnesse. For it is an excellent thing with yeelding to deserue well of an enemie. Which who so refuseth now to doe willingly, shall be constrained ere long against his will.

The Lacedemonians to the Turke.

Cleander being with his armie against our citie of Sparta, of our owne accord we surrender our selues vnto him: for the Lacedemonians hold it safer to yeeld to the counsell of the enemie, when it is profitable, then to hazard the fortune of a battell. Neither doe wee esteeme victorie to be so glorious vnto vs, as it is to deliuer our countrie from the rage and furie of warre, without hurt or detriment to the estate.

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